

Lake McBRIDE

Good morning.

Before I start I'd like to thank all of you for taking the time to hopefully resolve what has become a very hot button issue for many Iowans.

My name is Bob Schlegel, I am 74 years old , and live in Linn County on a small acreage just north of Marion with my wife Nina, and more cats and dogs than I like to admit.

I have 4 grown children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild all still living in the Cedar Rapids/Marion area - we have 2 bass boats available for family use - and we spend a considerable amount of money each year pursuing the sport of fishing - including at least two 55 mile round trips to Lake McBride each week during the fishing season - except of course during the months of June, July and August when boat restrictions change from " no wake " for all boats (which by the way is approx 1.8 MPH for our bass boats) to only boats with 10 HP or less and all the wake you want. And by the way – FYI - I have personally witnessed - on Lake McBride - many boats with supposedly less than 10 HP motors creating huge wakes and driving at speeds in excess of 15 – 20 MPH .

At the risk of not knowing in advance what other folks are going to say here today I've decided to talk just a little bit about the prime arguments on "both" sides of the issue and then discuss possible solutions.

Now I assume that each of the Legislative Committee Members have already received from Senator Dandekar copies of the 12 Editorials and Letters to the Editor that have appeared in the Cedar Rapids Gazette during the past year (at least they should have because I gave them to her for distribution). Out of these 12 - only 1 was in favor of maintaining the HP restriction and only because it feared the DNR might change the definition of "no wake " from "no wake" to some arbitrary speed limit (such as 5 MPH) at which some boats (especially those with V shaped hulls) could legally create a wake. When I read this I thought his fear was unfounded and ridiculous because the DNR realizes that many boats don't have working speedometers or speedometers at all PLUS it would need radar to catch offenders.

In my opinion - I see 3 primary arguments supporting "the elimination" of McBrides current summer time HP regulation in favor of the Iowa standard of "no wake" for all boats.

#1 - The social injustice of spending millions of dollars of public funds to develop and maintain one of the finest fisheries in this part of the state - and then placing use restrictions on it which in all practical purposes turns it into a private lake for a select few during the summer months

#2. It's far easier (and therefore cheaper) for the DNR to enforce a "no wake" regulation than a HP regulation because wake size is readily and easily visible and you can't disguise it - whereas a motors HP is not always identifiable. Not all older motors have HP marked on the motor cover PLUS there is no way the DNR can easily verify that the HP number painted on the motor cover actually reflects the motors true HP - paint and decal number stickers cheap.

#3. The loss of summertime revenue by local business surrounding the lake due to the significant decrease in the lakes usage - and the local DNR can attest to the usage drop June thru August .

Now - lets talk about some of the arguments being made for "continuing" the current summertime HP restriction :

#1. A boat with a motor "greater" than 10 HP running at "no wake" speed creates more shore damage - and is not as safe around sail boats and kayaks - as the same boat with a smaller motor running at the very same "no wake" speed - come on folks that doesn't make sense - doesn't "no wake" mean "no wake"?

#2. There are other nearby local bodies of water that can be used by fisherman during the summer months like the neighboring Coralville reservoir - again - come on folks - we're not even talking apples and oranges here - anyone who has ever been on Coralville knows it is a dirty, unstable and unfishable body of water due in a large part by its uncontrolled use by non-fisherman either racing or pulling water skiers at full throttle in high powered and noisy inboards.

Now - what I really want to talk about is how we get out of this mess - by exploring possible solutions which will not only fix this hot-button controversy but do it in a way which would be more fair to "all" Iowa citizens .

I've heard somewhere that politics is the art of compromise (or something like that) and folks I think we've come to far this time to not to come away with a compromise solution in which everyone feels like a winner.

If agreement cannot be reached on a simple permanent change - to a more fair "no wake" rule all year long - like all other similar Iowa lakes) then how about :

A one year trial period with a report and recommendation at the end of the trial by the DNR as to whether to continue on a permanent basis

– OR - if that doesn't work - allow the "no wake" rule to extend thru June 30 instead of ending in May

– OR – if that doesn't work - how about allowing the "no wake" rule to apply M – F during the summer months with the HP rule only on weekends.

Folks - In an age where our "entire" democratic political system appears to be broke - because of what is happening at the national level - I would urge you – no - plead with you - to restore some of our faith doing the right thing here in Iowa .

Thank you